# **THIS SUNDAY – 17th December**

MORNING SERVICE, 10.30am  
[**In Church**](https://www.stmarksgillingham.org/Articles/607245/Church_Building_Open.aspx?redirected=1)**,** [**Facebook**](https://www.facebook.com/stmarksgillingham) **and** [**Youtube**](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1b5IAYzi3iBqXPBu0OnRrQ/videos?view=2&live_view=502)

**Title:** Holy Communion, Theme: 3 Advent JOY – Mary  
**Speaker**: Catharina   
**Reading:** Luke 1:46-55

#### ****CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS****

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**  
  
Children’s groups will be running as usual Sunday. Parents can drop their children off from 10.15am and pick them up at 12pm.

Peace and Hope

Saturday 16th December

3pm, Vicarage Hall

Christmas Party

This week

Home Groups  
Throughout the week

Joining a **home group** is a brilliant chance to meet and pray with others, build relationships, support one another, exchange views and explore God's word together. [Take a look at the groups and sign up here](https://www.stmarksgillingham.org/Groups/268148/Small_Groups.aspx) or contact the office.

Ladies Group

We will meet on Wednesday at 10am at the Old Vicarage.

Standing in the Gap (Prayer meeting)

**Saturdays| 7 - 8am | Online**

On Zoom, join us [online here](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2238511807?pwd=TU94WVN3cDlaSWxnejhHZTYxMTdvdz09).  
[Meeting ID: 223 851 1807 | Passcode: inthegap]

Open Church  
**Tuesday | 10am - 12pm | Church**

Come along for a chat, fellowship or private prayer. Refreshments will be served.   
If you are interested in volunteering please contact Dammy via [admin@stmarksgillingham.org](mailto:admin@stmarksgillingham.org).

Dementia Cafe

13th and 27th December |1pm to 3pm | Church

Parent & Toddlers

Wednesdays, 1.15-2.45pm, Vicarage Hall

### **NEWS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Church news

Holy Communion

If you are unable to get to Church and would like to have communion brought to your home, please contact the Church office.  [admin@stmarksgillingham.org](mailto:admin@stmarksgillingham.org) 01634 570489.  You need to live in St Mark’s parish and be happy for your contact details to be passed to the home communion team.

St Mark's Gillingham Christmas

Saturday the 16th of December 5:00 PM Christmas nativity production

Sunday the 17th of December 10:30 AM third Sunday of advent communion

Sunday the 24th of December 10:30 AM carols and lessons

Sunday the 24th of December 11 PM St Mary's island school midnight Holy Communion

Monday the 25th of December 10:30 AM Christmas Day service

Sunday the 31st of December 11:00 PM crossover praise night service

You and the whole family are warmly invited to join us for any of our Christmas services

St marks church Gillingham ME7 5TP

Prayer Meetings **for 2024 - dates to be announced  
  
Meetings between 7 and 9pm  
  
St Mark's: 1 Canterbury Street, ME7 5TP.  
Old Vicarage, Vicarage Road, ME7 5JA.  
Any questions, please email, catharina@stmarksgillingham.org**

##### Pray for

**Worldwide -**

* A For a united stand against persecution and bigotry; and for world leaderships to reflect the needs and hopes of all their peoples, with equity.
* The will and way for peace to come to the Holy Land; may the Lord raise up peacemakers and mediators; for the hostages to be released; and for heartbreaking, and critical, needs of the suffering to be addressed.
* **Ukraine**, that there is continuing support for them in their plight.
* For the world places & situations on your hearts and minds.

**The UK –**

* For kindness, respect, and appreciations, to be seen on our streets.  For **King Charles and Queen Camilla**, and the working royals, at Christmas.

**God's Church –**

* Think ***Rt Revd Dr Colin Buchanan*** who was Vicar at St Mark’s, Gillingham, has died at the age of 89 – many will remember him well.  Prayers are appreciated for his widow Di and their children.
* Think of the **persecuted church** in the places on your hearts, especially those isolated, and the unjustly incarcerated.

**Gillingham and Medway –**

* For  **church groups, services, and activities** in the coming days, that **souls are made ready** to hear and respond to the Lord’s invitation of life in all its fulness, in Christ; pray for all our musicians and singers, that the Lord protect their health.

It would be lovely if people would please bring cakes to share. Please let the church office know if you can as then we are able to prepare enough space for them all.

If you would like to be added to the ***Prayer & Praise*** email list to receive weekly praise reports and prayer requests from our church family please contact Kath Burtrand: [*kathyb.nana@yahoo.co.uk*](mailto:kathyb.nana@yahoo.co.uk)

Silent Retreat

Come and meet with God in silence before the busyness of December Saturday 25 Nov, 10am - 2pm The Old Vicarage St Mark’s Gillingham

Foodbank

If you would like to donate to foodbank here is the link to the shopping list of things that are needed for those who are in need.

file:///C:/Users/Student.26327/Desktop/fb.pdf

Medway Night Shelter

There are some gaps available for working and supporting this important work with the homeless, with a zoom training available too … ‘We are still on the lookout for volunteers to help with cooking 5.30-8.30pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday’. If you would like to be involved or donate, contact by email  [medwayshelter@gmail.com](mailto:medwayshelter@gmail.com)

The night shelter are looking for volunteers for cooking and laundry.  If you are interested, can they please email.  Medway Night Shelter [medwayshelter@gmail.com](mailto:medwayshelter@gmail.com)

WARM CLOTHING

Do you own any good quality warm clothing, coats, hats, scarves, gloves, blankets etc that you no longer need. Please donate these to Street Angles to help others.

Warm Spaces weekly in Gillingham

Monday, St Mary’s Gillingham Green, 9am to 12pm

Tuesday, St Mark’s Church, Gillingham High Street, 12pm to 2pm

Wednesday, St Augustine’s, Rock Avenue, 9am to 11am, St Barnabas, Nelson Road, 1:30pm to 4pm

Thursday, St Augustine’s, Rock Avenue, 13:30am to 4pm

Sunday, St Luke’s Church Hall, 12:30pm to 4pm

##### Upcoming Events

NEXT SUNDAY

**Advent**

**24th December, 10.30am, Church**  
  
**Title:**  Carols and Lessons, 4 Advent LOVE  
**Speaker**: Catharina   
**Reading:**

Thank you for the week!

Thank you to those who run things in the background. Technical staff, leaders and helpers, flower arrangers, decorators.

St Mark’s Church  
**Office hours:**  
**St Mark’s Church  
Canterbury Street, Gillingham, ME7 5TP  
Registered Charity 1141709**  
  
**Office**: The Old Vicarage, Vicarage Road, Gillingham, ME7 5JA  
**Tel.** 01634 570489 | [admin@stmarksgillingham.org](mailto:admin@stmarksgillingham.org)  
**Office hours:**  
Monday | 9.00am - 2.00pm  
Tuesday | 9.00am - 1.00pm  
Wednesday | 9.00am - 10.00am, | 12:15pm - 3.15pm  
Thursday | 9.00am - 1.00pm  
Fridays | 10:00am – 12 noon  
**Please contact the office if you need to make an**  
***appointment & do not drop by without prior arrangement.***